Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

16.   (New) A region selection device which selects one region from among a plurality of overlapping regions displayed on a display screen, the device comprising:

5   a region table which stores attributes of the plurality of regions displayed on the display screen, including a selection attribute of each respective region that indicates whether or not the respective region is selected;

a coordinate input device for designating a coordinate

10   defined in the display screen;

a region rearranging section for rearranging the plurality of overlapping regions on the display screen based on at least one attribute of the plurality of regions stored in the region table;

15   an inside selection decision section which selects one region by deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located inside the region;

a border selection decision section which selects one region by deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the

20   coordinate input device is located on a borderline defining a periphery of the region;

-2-

an editing section which moves the selected region or

changes a size thereof; and

a selected state clearing section which changes the

25   selection attribute of every region in the region table to null.

17.   (New) The region selection device according to

claim 16, wherein the region rearranging section automatically

rearranges the plurality of overlapping regions in order of

increasing area, such that one of the regions with a smallest

area is arranged on top.

18.   (New) The region selection device according to

claim 17, wherein when the inside selection decision section

decides that the coordinate designated by coordinate input device

is within more than one of the regions, the inside selection

5   decision section selects a smallest one of the regions, by area,

enclosing the coordinate designated by the coordinate input

device.

19.   (New) The region selection device according to

claim 17, wherein when the border selection decision section

decides that the coordinate designated by the coordinate input

device is located on borderlines of more than one of the regions,

5   the border selection decision section selects a topmost one of

the regions, as arranged by the region rearranging section, that corresponds to one of the borderlines on which the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located.

20.   (New) The region selection device according to claim 17, wherein if a plurality of the overlapping regions have a same area, the region rearranging section rearranges the regions such that, among the regions with the same area, the regions are arranged from top to bottom in order of decreasing perimeter.

21.   (New) The region selection device according to claim 17, wherein when the editing section changes a size of the selected region, the region rearranging section automatically rearranges the overlapping regions in accordance with the changed size of the selected region.

22.   (New) A method for selecting one region from among a plurality of overlapping regions displayed on a display screen, the method comprising:

storing, in a region table, attributes of the plurality of regions displayed on the display screen, including a selection attribute of each respective region that indicates whether or not the respective region is selected;

-4-

designating via a coordinate input device a coordinate

defined in the display screen;

10   changing the selection attribute of every region in the

region table to null;

rearranging the plurality of overlapping regions on the

display screen based on at least one attribute of the plurality

of regions stored in the region table;

15   selecting one region by deciding whether or not the

coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located

on a borderline defining a periphery of the region;

if the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device

is not located on any said borderline, selecting one region by

20   deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the

coordinate input device is located inside the region; and

editing the selected region by moving the selected region or

changing a size thereof.

23.   (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the

plurality of overlapping regions are automatically rearranged in

order of increasing area, such that one of the regions with a

smallest area is arranged on top.

24.   (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein when it

is determined that the coordinate designated by coordinate input

device is within more than one of the regions, a smallest one of
the regions, by area, that encloses the coordinate designated by
the coordinate input device is selected.

25. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein when it
is determined that the coordinate designated by the coordinate
input device is located on borderlines of more than one of the
regions, a topmost one of the regions, which corresponds to one
5   of the borderlines on which the coordinate designated by the
coordinate input device is located, is selected.

26. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein if a
plurality of the overlapping regions have a same area, the
regions are rearranged such that, among the regions with the same
area, the regions are arranged from top to bottom in order of
5   decreasing perimeter.

27. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein a size
of the selected region is changed, the overlapping regions are
automatically rearranged in accordance with the changed size of
the selected region.

28. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the
selection attribute of every region in the region table is

changed to null each time a coordinate is designated via the coordinate input device, before one of the regions is selected based on the designated coordinate.

29.   (New) A computer-readable recording medium having a computer program stored thereon that is executable by a computer to cause the computer to perform a process for selecting one region from among a plurality of overlapping regions displayed on
5   a display screen, the process comprising:

storing, in a region table, attributes of the plurality of regions displayed on the display screen, including a selection attribute of each respective region that indicates whether or not the respective region is selected;

10   designating via a coordinate input device a coordinate defined in the display screen;

changing the selection attribute of every region in the region table to null;

rearranging the plurality of overlapping regions on the
15   display screen based on at least one attribute of the plurality of regions stored in the region table;

selecting one region by deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located on a borderline defining a periphery of the region;

20   if the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device

is not located on any said borderline, selecting one region by

deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the

coordinate input device is located inside the region; and

editing the selected region by moving the selected region or

25 changing a size thereof.

30.   (New) The computer-readable recording medium according

to claim 29, wherein the plurality of overlapping regions are

automatically rearranged in order of increasing area, such that

one of the regions with a smallest area is arranged on top.

31.   (New) The computer-readable recording medium according

to claim 30, wherein when it is determined that the coordinate

designated by coordinate input device is within more than one of

the regions, a smallest one of the regions, by area, that

5   encloses the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device

is selected.

32.   (New) The computer-readable recording medium according

to claim 30, wherein when it is determined that the coordinate

designated by the coordinate input device is located on

borderlines of more than one of the regions, a topmost one of the

5   regions, which corresponds to one of the borderlines on which the

coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located,
is selected.

33.   (New) The computer-readable recording medium according
to claim 30, wherein if a plurality of the overlapping regions
have a same area, the regions are rearranged such that, among the
regions with the same area, the regions are arranged from top to
bottom in order of decreasing perimeter.

34.   (New) The computer-readable recording medium according
to claim 30, wherein a size of the selected region is changed,
the overlapping regions are automatically rearranged in
accordance with the changed size of the selected region.

35.   (New) The computer-readable recording medium according
to claim 29, wherein the selection attribute of every region in
the region table is changed to null each time a coordinate is
designated via the coordinate input device, before one of the
regions is selected based on the designated coordinate.